

Basic Components of Proficiency in World History

Proficient means that you “get it” at the level expected. Every learning goal will have a grade in the grade book. If you show that you can do all 3 of these basics below for that goal, you will be “proficient” which in the grade book for that score is worth an A- (90%). If you don’t get it the first time, you’ll have later chances to show you’ve learned it. There are specific and separate tasks related to each (such as exam items, parts of an essay, project, etc). It will always be clear what component below is being evaluated. Demonstrating two out of the three is a B- and just one of the three earns you a C- for that learning goal.

- **Recognition and Recall Thinking**

Includes true/false and selected response, defining or describing events, listing, and matching, and factual accuracy of evidence in an essay.

- **Conceptual and Application Thinking**

Tasks that require you to think effectively about historical trends/patterns, concepts, periodization, causation, comparison, changes, and continuities. This also relates to being able to summarize the most relevant or significant parts of an event and showing how specific facts and events illustrate a historical trend.

- **Analytical and Strategic Thinking**

Tasks in which you analyze the causes behind a historical change, continuity, similarity, or difference. Or you may have to analyze the role that historical context plays in a specific event. This also involves being able to use historical evidence to support a historical argument, analyzing the point of view of a source, and evaluating the relative usefulness of different sources in answering a question.

Advanced Understanding: Going Beyond Proficient

After successfully demonstrating all three of the above, each learning goal will have advanced tasks that can be completed. When you succeed at TWO of the following below you’ll be at an A+ for that goal (100%) while with ONE you’ll be at an A (95%).

- **Relating historical concepts to present-day conditions**

Tasks in which you show the relevance of a current condition or event in the world that you believe reflects a historical trend seen in the learning goal. Be able to analyze whether the similarity is based on cause-and-effect connections or whether it is a coincidental parallel.

- **Demonstrate that a historical pattern can be seen in evidence across cultures**

Tasks in which you use primary sources to illustrate a historical trend seen in different parts of the world. Analyze the reasons for the similarity and/or differences across cultures (such as the differences in historical context).

- **Evaluate the historical arguments made by scholars**

Can read and comprehend a scholarly article or book excerpts on a subject directly related to the learning goal. Can evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the argument.

What Your Revisable Learning Goal Grades Mean

Level 4	A+	100%	Advanced: You've learned more than the expected essentials. You have a more nuanced understanding of the goal and the skills to develop comprehensive analysis, connections, and/or research on the subject with no major errors. (All 3 Basic Components + 2 Advanced)
Level 3.5	A	95%	Demonstrated partial level 4 understanding. (All 3 Basic Components + 1 Advanced)
Level 3	A-	90%	Proficient: You've reached the target learning goal. Typically this means you can fully explain the relevant concepts and examples that illustrate those concepts. (Has shown all 3 Basic Components)
Level 2.5	B	85%	Demonstrated partial level 3 understanding.
Level 2	B-	80%	Progressing: You have demonstrated that you have partial understanding of the target learning goal. Typically this means you understand the specifics but can't accurately connect them to the larger concepts, or perhaps you can generalize and illustrate the goal but don't adequately understand the specifics related to it. Moderate errors. (Has shown 2 of the 3 Basic Components)
Level 1.5	C	75%	Demonstrated partial level 2 understanding.
Level 1	C-	70%	Completes with Aid or minimally on own: You have demonstrated initial progress toward learning the goal or with help walking through it you can exhibit proficiency but you can't yet explain things fully on your own. (Has shown 1 of the 3 Basic components)
Level 0.5	D	65%	Demonstrated partial level 1 understanding.
Level 0	F	50%	So far no demonstration of proficiency: Even with help you have not yet demonstrated learning of the target goal. (Has shown 0 of the 3 Basic Components but has made an honest attempt)
INC --			Incomplete: A learning goal task that has not been turned in or that is incomplete will receive an INC in the grade book and will cause your entire course grade to be INC until it is completed.

